



DIVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Health Services
Disease Prevention
Family Health
Health Promotion
State Epidemiologist

To: South Dakota Health Care Facilities
Date: 6 April 2006
RE: Mumps

Our neighboring state of Iowa is currently experiencing a mumps epidemic with over 300 cases (www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d330a1.htm). The number of cases is increasing daily and surrounding states are now also reporting cases. South Dakota currently has no reported mumps cases.

Many of the mumps patients are seeking medical care. Health care workers have been exposed and some have become ill with mumps. All health care institutions (e.g. inpatient, outpatient, public and private) should ensure that those who work within their facilities are protected.

Mumps is transmitted by person to person, airborne or droplet spread. It has an incubation period of 16-18 days (range 14-25 days)

Iowa is encouraging the following actions and the South Dakota Department of Health is encouraging South Dakota health care facilities to take the same preventive measures.

Health care workers should be immune with documentation of 2 MMRs, or serologic evidence of immunity, or be over 65 years of age.

Considerations:

- Staff over 65 years of age most likely have natural immunity due to prior infection or disease.
- Staff from 45-65 years of age should prove immunity through documentation of vaccination or positive IgG serology. Those in this age group grew up when the chance of exposure to wild mumps virus was markedly declining (thus may have no natural immunity) and when the opportunity to receive mumps vaccine was uncertain.
- Staff less than 45 years old can be assumed to have one dose of MMR if they went to school in South Dakota and received the required immunizations. A second dose should be given if not previously documented in the person's medical history.

The time to address this is now, before mumps hits South Dakota. All health care settings are being strongly encouraged to ensure all staff are protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases by maintaining a fully-vaccinated workforce. This will also prevent the spread of these diseases to patients.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations on the Immunization of Health-Care Workers is found at:
www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/0050577.htm.